Kottayam city in Kerala became fully literate within 100 das (April—June, 1990) followed by Ernakulam district which was declared as the first fully literate district in the country on 4-2-1990. The mass campaigns for total literacy which have been launched in about 25 selected districts thereafter are making good progress an, j the results of such campaigns will be made known by the close of the 1990-91 as well as the beginning of 1991-92. More districts are also coming forward to launch mass campaigns for total literacy from time to time. Apart from providing positive support and help to these districts willing to launch campaigns for total literacy, steps are being taken to provide facilities of post-literacy & continuing education so that the neo-literates do not relapse into illiteracy.

3. It is hoped that a large number cf villages in the States/districts covered by mass campaigns would have achieved total literacy immediate after the campaigns are over.

New Contraceptive Vaccine

1204. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHRI MOHENDRA PKASAD):

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.]

(a) whether a birth control vaccine has been recently developed by the National Institute of Immunology;

(fo) if so, the salient feature about its effectiveness in controlling births and side-effects, if any; and

(c) by when it would be permitted - for commercial manufacture and use?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. SHAKEELUR REHMAN); (a) Attempts are being made to develop contraceptive vaccines at National Institute of Immunology (NH).

(b) The female contraceptive vaccine after due research, eXperi-vaccine produces anti-bodies against the pregnancy hormone hCG. The vaccine after due research, experimen tal work and toxicology studies went through. Fhase-i clinical trials in 5 centres in India and 4 centres abroad. The results of Phase-I clinical trials are satisfactory and no significant side effects have been indicated. Phase-II clinical trials have been recently initiated.

Another vaccine induces anti-bodies against LHRH, a hormone common to both males females. The vaccine is already in Phase-I/Phase-II clinical trials in patients of carcinoma of the prostrate in 2 centres in India and 2 centres abroad. The vaccine is potentially usable for fertility control as well. The Drugs Controller of India has recently given clearance for clinical trials from this aspect in postpartum women with the objective of extending the period of lactational amennorrhea and inter-child interval. Trials will be conducted in 3 centres in India,

(c) The vaccines have to undergo rigorous Phase-II and Phase-Ill human clinical trials Programme in troduction and commercial manufac ture Will depend on the result of these trials.

Air Travel in India—Problems and Solutions

1205. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE,
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether a panel discussion-cum-open house session on Air Travel in India—Problem and Solutions was held at Madras on September 21, 1990;

(b) if so, what specific issues were raised and observations and suggges-made therein; and